

National Congress Bulletin

APRIL 1957 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 24, NO. 8

Memo to Local Presidents:

WHAT DOES A P.T.A. DO? No doubt you have been asked that question by nonmembers, new members, or prospective members. The same question is frequently asked about our national organization by visitors to this country from abroad, members of other organizations, staff members of government agencies, and other interested people who want information on the work of the National Congress.

When someone asks us to describe our work, we are reminded of a story about a young electrical engineer who was starting on a new research job. When asked just what he would be doing, he grinned engagingly and said, "Do you want my *two-minute* answer, my *ten-minute* answer, or my *two-hour* description?"

Likewise, when confronted with the question, "What does the National Congress do?" we feel tempted to ask, "How much time do you have?" For we can talk almost endlessly about what the National Congress does; it does so much and there is so much to tell! But if we must be brief, we can give the "two-minute answer."

Scope of Our Concern

- A simple way to show the range and scope of the work of the National Congress is to name our standing committees, which illustrate the breadth of our program for the welfare of children and youth. In the March issue of the *Bulletin* we discussed the work of these committees and showed how they are concerned with children's character development, their spiritual education, their health—mental and physical—their family life, their recreation, their schooling, their safety, their protection from harmful situations and influences. The names of our committees indicate too that we care about all children: the exceptional as well as the average; children of all ages from birth through

adolescence; children wherever they may live, whether in rural or urban communities. We also are concerned with legislation that affects children and with maintaining a friendly world in which they may grow up in peace. Committee titles also indicate our interest in parent education and publications services to help parents and teachers increase their understanding of children and their skills in guiding them.

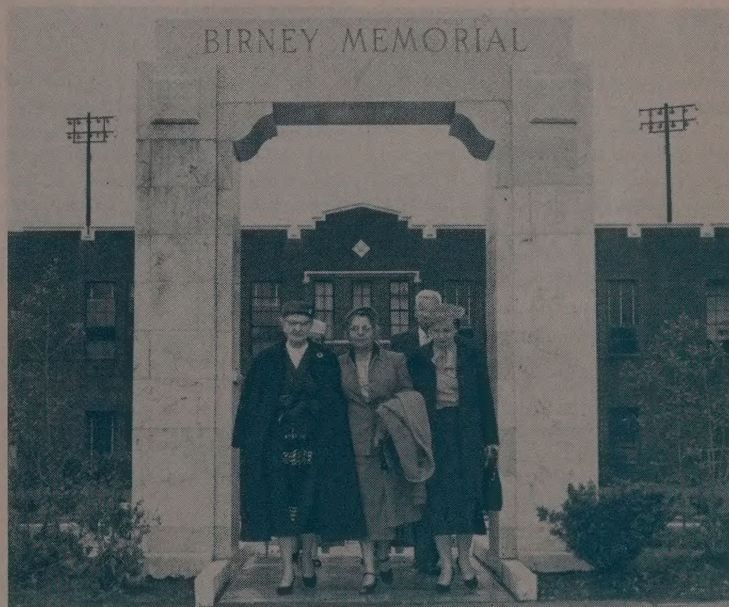
Special Committees for Special Tasks

- But the activities of the National Congress in behalf of children are so

many and so varied that they cannot all be performed by standing committees, even though there are twenty-three such national committees. The National Congress therefore has special committees to do special jobs. Some of the special committees are established to meet a temporary need; some to work on a pressing, current problem; some to carry out Congress projects; and some to carry on the affairs of the National Congress as a national organization.

All these special committees cannot be described fully in this "Memo" (this is not the place for the "two-hour description"), but brief descriptions of a few typical ones may illustrate the

(Continued on page 2)



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- At the time the National Congress Executive Committee met late in January in Savannah, Georgia, some of the members traveled to Marietta, Georgia, to pay their respects at the Birney Memorial and, while doing so, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Congress. With them as they pause under the archway that fronts the Memorial (on the high school grounds) is (left) Mrs. Charles D. Center, a former secretary of the National Congress and a member of the Georgia Congress board of managers. Others in the foreground here are Mrs. L. E. Burr, vice-president (center) and Mrs. L. W. Alston, secretary.

(Continued from page 1)

range and variety of the services and tasks accepted by the National Congress.

At the beginning of each administration, the new national president appoints five members of the Executive Committee to serve as an administration continuity committee. This special committee is, in effect, an evaluation committee. It constantly reviews the policies, practices, and program of the organization to be sure they are meeting current needs and changing conditions. It studies the need for various standing committees in relation to the national program. As a result, it may recommend the creation of new committees or the combination or discontinuance of old ones.

In Pace with Progress

• Because the National Congress, by means of the administration continuity committee, is constantly evaluating itself as an organization, it remains flexible and up to date, able to meet today's needs. Someone has said, "You cannot do today's work with yesterday's tools." Thus the Congress, ready to use the best possible new tools, is indeed a progressive, forward-looking organization. It has always been willing to modify its structure, policies, practices, procedures, and program to meet changing conditions.

Another important function of this committee is to review and evaluate requests from other organizations for our cooperation and to make recommendations concerning them to the National Board of Managers. Since the National Congress receives many such requests, it must be very careful to conserve its resources and energies for maximum effectiveness.

Another special committee, the committee on Bylaws, is likewise concerned with keeping the Congress in tune with changing times. Its function is to review National Bylaws and to propose changes when they are necessary.

Serving State Branches and Councils

• Two special committees are concerned with services of the National Congress to state congresses and to councils of parent-teacher associations. One is the field service committee; the other, the national council advisory service committee. As you know, the National Congress employs a professional

field staff whose services are offered to the state congresses. The field service committee reviews the reports of field trips made and is responsible for studying them to discover needs and effective practices. The council advisory service committee, composed of three national officers, assists councils with their special problems and facilitates exchanges of ideas and information among councils throughout the country.

Problems and Projects

• A few years ago when the problem of unwholesome comic books and TV programs first reached alarming proportions, the National Congress set up a special action committee on comics, motion pictures, radio, and television. That committee has done some very effective work. No doubt you are familiar with one of its outstanding accomplishments: a mimeographed release titled *Suggested Guides for Evaluating Comic Books, Motion Pictures, Radio and Television Programs*.

A special committee that also works on a current concern is the committee on civil defense. This committee, which maintains close working relations with the Federal Civil Defense Administration, keeps parent-teacher groups informed of developments and suggests ways in which local units can assist in promoting civil defense.

Still another special committee is the program committee on legislation, which performs the gigantic task of studying national legislation affecting children and makes recommendations for Congress action to the National Board of Managers. And the committee that studies publication needs and plans the publications program is the special committee on Congress publications.

In the remaining space we can only name other special Congress committees. There are committees to nominate national officers and national chairmen of standing committees; a budget committee; a committee to approve bylaws of state congresses and units in unorganized areas; a convention management committee; a convention rules committee; a group relations committee; a joint committee with the National Education Association; and a Washington, D. C., legislation committee.

Selecting Committee Members

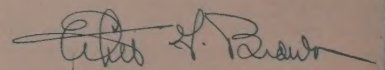
• Who are the members of these special committees? With one exception only

members of the National Board of Managers are eligible to serve on special committees. The exception to this rule is membership on the Washington, D. C., legislation committee. As you know, it is essential that we have in Washington a group of P.T.A. members who can observe legislative action in the United States Congress, relay information on the status of legislation we are interested in, and present the parent-teacher view to legislators when necessary. Members of this committee, therefore, live in or very near the national capital, and, of course, they are members of local units. They are appointed by the national chairman of Legislation, with the approval of the Executive Committee. Their work is directed by the Legislation chairman, and they serve in a volunteer capacity, as do the members of all other parent-teacher committees.

How are members of the other special committees selected? In accordance with policies and practices of the National Congress, certain committees are elected by the National Board of Managers, others are appointed by the national president. For example, the president must appoint to the program committee on legislation the first and second National Congress vice-presidents, five state presidents, the chairman of the standing Committee on Legislation, and one other chairman of a standing committee.

Special committees, like standing committees, have no arbitrary powers. They are responsible to the National Board of Managers, which has created them. They study problems and perform tasks assigned to them, submit reports, and make recommendations to the Board or the Executive Committee.

Through the division of labor among many committees, the National Congress is able to accomplish far more than it could in any other way. Indeed it is only as these committees carry out their varied tasks that the National Congress can hope to achieve the fulfillment of its Objects.



MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

OUR GOAL: 11,000,000 MEMBERS BY APRIL 15, 1957

WORKING WITH THE PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION



W. Robert Gaines

► Adding to our series of articles on how school people feel about the P.T.A. is remarkably easy because so much has been written on the subject. Statements in the article that follows were made by Superintendent W. Robert Gaines of the Charleston, South Carolina, city schools before the Rivers High School P.T.A. in Charleston. Later the talk appeared in the *South Carolina Parent-Teacher* under the title "What the P.T.A. Means to One Superintendent."

OCCASIONALLY WE HEAR remarks which disturb us. Over the years I have, on occasions, heard remarks about the P.T.A. which disturbed me the more because they were made by people who should know better—professional school men. Let me pass along to you one such remark:

"I get scared every time I see the lights burning in one of our schools at night and people going inside. It means trouble coming."

This remark could be dismissed easily with a chuckle, except for the frightening ignorance it indicates—ignorance of a fundamental proposition upon which our American public schools are predicated. **The public schools are owned by and are responsible to the people.**

This simply means that the schools are not owned by the teachers, principals, superintendents, nor even school boards; and certainly not by those who attain political office. And no one has conferred upon any of the groups the right to operate the schools according to personal whim. These groups, directly or indirectly, are responsible absolutely to the will of those they serve. To faithfully discharge their duties they must be responsive to that will.

I do not mean to imply that professional school people do not have the duty to exercise vigorous and responsible leadership. Without such leadership progress is impossible. I repeat, however, that school people are responsible to and must be responsive to that will. To act counter to it or to step far beyond it not only invites educational chaos, but also constitutes a denial of the democratic principle.

In order to carry out my duties as superintendent faithfully then, I must first concern myself in finding and gauging the public will and next exercise what effective leadership I can within the general limits of that will. I must ask myself, "To whom can I turn?"

In my case the question, in large measure, is answered. We have strong and representative parent-teacher organizations. For that I am deeply grateful.

Our P.T.A.'s are representative of the people, particularly the thoughtful people who care about education. From you, as from no other group, I can discover what the interested, intelligent owners of our schools feel about the education of our children, and with you, as with no other group, I can discuss possible solutions to our multiple problems. I can thus carry out better my responsibilities. From a professionally selfish point of view, that is what the P.T.A. means to this superintendent.

The P.T.A. does much more than this, of course, to advance the work of our schools. It fills in what might other-

wise be a deep chasm between the school and home. It helps to create an atmosphere of cooperation without which the schools might flounder—an atmosphere which manifests itself in a thousand small but vital ways; in the mutual trust with which a teacher and a parent can talk over a child's problem; in the help which is no further away from a principal than his telephone; in the support a superintendent can get for any sound proposal.

Had I my wish, local P.T.A.'s would grow in number, strength, and influence. Had I my wish, the P.T.A. would also raise its sights more often above the mere material problems of education. Providing stage curtains is certainly commendable, and supporting building programs is necessary. Advocating raises for teachers is essential if we are to obtain enough devoted and well-trained persons to guide our children. In a country as rich in natural resources as ours, these material problems must and shall be conquered.

But I wish the P.T.A. more often would raise its sights to study the many facets of the imperative question of public education today: What kind of an education shall we give our children? In the answer to this question lies the future of our land.

No, I don't get scared when I see the night lights burning in one of our schools and see thoughtful people entering to discuss the education of our children. I only wish they would burn more often and more brightly.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 24 APRIL 1957 Number 8

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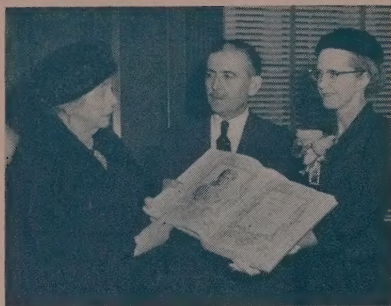
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Publications and National Parent-Teacher

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Managing editor: Mary A. Ferre
Senior assistant editor: Mary Elinore Smith
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Administration Projects

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• Mrs. Harold Walker of Washington (left), daughter of Alice McLellan Birney, shares reflections on "The Life and Personality of Phoebe Apperson Hearst" with L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian, and Mrs. Ralph Hobbs, National Congress vice-president.

Commemorative Album Given to Library of Congress

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS was started in a selfless way, and I'm proud to know its leaders have continued with the same selfless motives, with no one working for money or fame, but only for the love of children."

These words were spoken at the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., by Mrs. Harold Walker, who is a daughter of one of our Founders, Alice McLellan Birney. It was appropriate that Mrs. Walker be present on an occasion that celebrated the National Congress' sixtieth year of service to children.

The reason for a gathering in this particular spot was to present to the Library of Congress a commemorative album—an album holding pictures of our Founders, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst; pictures of National Congress presidents and summaries of accomplishments during their administrations; and various other reminders of an impressive sixty-year history. The materials, to be kept in the Library's archives, will be available for study. Already in the Library is a collection of copyrighted publications of the National Congress.

With Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Hobbs (see picture caption) at the event were other representatives of the National Congress: Mrs. L. W. Alston, secretary; Mrs. C. Wheeler Detjen, chairman of High School Service; John B. Gilliland, president, District of Columbia Congress; Mrs. Robert F. Mayers, president, Massachusetts Congress; Mrs. Cecil S. Garey, president, Pennsylvania Congress; and Mrs. J. A. Henry, vice-president, South Carolina Congress.

NATIONAL CONVENTION • 1957

• Advance Program Information •

THEME: "The Family and the Community: Each Shapes the Other—the P.T.A. Serves Both... For Responsible Citizens in Resourceful Communities."

SUNDAY—May 19, 1957

Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

5:00 p.m.
Christ Church

7:00 p.m.
Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

8:00 p.m.
Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

REGISTRATION: 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

VESPER SERVICE, including a memorial to past parent-teacher leaders

ADDRESS

THE REVEREND THEODORE H. PALMQUIST, Pastor of Foundry Methodist Church, Washington, D. C.

BUFFET SUPPER: National Life Members

SUNDAY EVENING SING

MONDAY—May 20, 1957

Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

GENERAL SESSION I

9:30 a.m.
Taft Auditorium,
Cincinnati Masonic
Temple

8:00 p.m.
Taft Auditorium,
Cincinnati Masonic
Temple

GENERAL SESSION II

2:00 p.m.
Taft Auditorium,
Cincinnati Masonic
Temple

4:30 p.m.
to 5:30 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION III

REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME

MRS. W. C. DAVIS, President, Ohio Congress

RESPONSE

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, First Vice-president

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GREETINGS

MRS. J. D. TAYLOR, President, Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation

NAGAO MASUDA, President, Japanese Congress of Parents and Teachers

MRS. CHARLES L. WILLIAMS, President, National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers

REPORTS, Officers and Committees

ADDRESS

ARTHUR F. COREY, Executive Secretary, California Teachers Association

Presiding: MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL CHAIRMEN

SYMPOSIUM

Participants:

CHARLES P. TAFT, Mayor of Cincinnati

DENNIS O'Harrow, Executive Director, American Society of Planning Officials

ROBERT A. MCKIBBEN, Superintendent of City Work, Division of National Missions of the Methodist Church

CONSULTATION HOUR

National Chairmen with State Chairmen

Presiding: MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

BASIL O'CONNOR, President, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis

8:00 p.m.
Taft Auditorium,
Cincinnati Masonic
Temple

GREETINGS

MARTHA A. SHULL, President, National Education Association
PHILIP J. HICKEY, President, American Association of School Administrators

ADDRESS

To be announced

Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

7:45 a.m.
to 3:30 p.m.
Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

SECTION MEETINGS

9:30 a.m.
to 4:00 p.m.
Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

4:30 p.m.
to 5:30 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION IV

TUESDAY—May 21, 1957

REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Councils in Action
2. Serving Youth Through High School P.T.A.'s
3. Strengthening Parent and Family Life Programs
4. Teamwork Does It

CONSULTATION HOUR

National Chairmen with State Chairmen

Presiding: MRS. ROLLIN BROWN

INTRODUCTION OF STATE PRESIDENTS

REPORT OF ELECTION BOARD

ADDRESS

JOHN A. SCHINDLER, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine,
Monroe Clinic, Monroe, Wisconsin

Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

8:00 a.m.
to 9:30 a.m.
Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

SECTION MEETINGS

10:00 a.m.
to 12:30 a.m.
Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

GENERAL SESSION V

2:00 p.m.
Taft Auditorium,
Cincinnati Masonic
Temple

4:30 p.m.
to 5:30 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION VI

7:00 p.m.
Netherland-Hilton
Hotel

WEDNESDAY—May 22, 1957

REGISTRATION: 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CLINIC

National Parent-Teacher Magazine: Its Promotion and Use (for magazine chairmen)

CONFERENCES

State Chairmen, High School Service
State Council Advisors

1. Councils in Action
2. Serving Youth Through High School P.T.A.'s
3. Strengthening Parent and Family Life Programs
4. Teamwork Does It

Presiding: MRS. ROLLIN BROWN

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAGAZINE AWARDS

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: JOHN W. CARROLL, Chairman, Committee on Rural Service

Participants:

BYRON ENGLAND, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, El Paso,
Texas
EILEEN STACK, Principal, DuSable High School, Chicago, Illinois

CONSULTATION HOUR

National Chairmen with State Chairmen

Presiding: MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President

BANQUET

ADDRESS

ASHLEY MONTAGU, Anthropologist, Lecturer, and Author of *The Natural Superiority of Women* and *On Being Human*

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Let's Talk About Civil Defense

THE STRONGEST defense America can have is a strong people—people who are emotionally and mentally alert, physically fit, socially adjusted, and spiritually fortified. These same fundamentals of strength underlie the Objects we cherish for children. But we know too that they are equally desirable for adults. And the man or woman who is so fortified is more able to face crises created by nature and by man and to shield his neighbor who may be less well equipped.

You and I have only to look about us and to read the daily news to be convinced that *civil defense is common sense* in everyday living. As a matter of common sense it's an issue of our concern—for ourselves and for our children. It's a concern that can be dealt with effectively and skillfully only if each P.T.A. in each community maintains a civil defense program.

What, then, should be considered in setting up such a program or revitalizing the one already in existence? Give some thought to the following:

1. Be well informed.
2. Urge your association to devote some time in each meeting to disaster preparedness.
3. Relay information to your association with brief announcements and with the distribution of pamphlets and other materials.
4. Secure copies of *Civil Defense Education* (in elementary and secondary schools) from the National Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. Share the information it contains with your principal and his faculty.

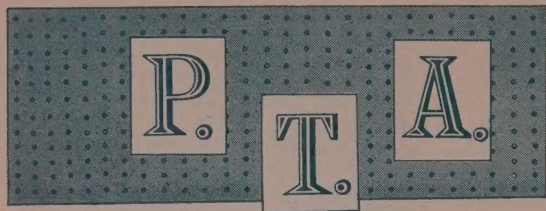
Don't you agree that civil defense is common sense we can use every day? If so, what are you doing about it? The P.T.A. serves the family and the community by stressing the importance of civil defense.

MRS. RALPH HOBBS, Chairman
Special committee on civil defense
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

ATTENTION . . .

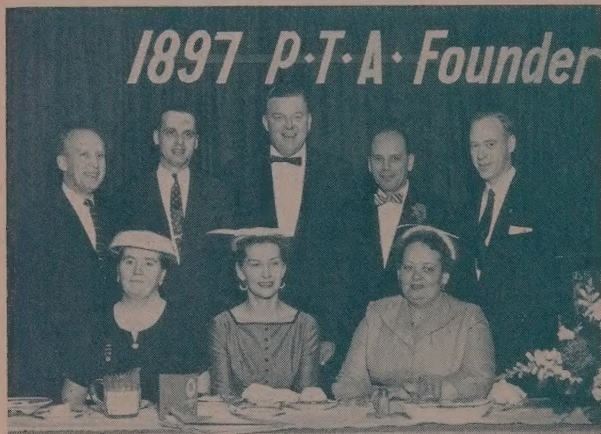
Convention Delegates

- Reservation blanks for Cincinnati hotel rooms have been prepared for your particular convenience. Write to your state office for the copy that's waiting there for you.



BULLETIN BOARD

Brief Items of Current Interest



© Wilt's Tiny Tot Studio

- Officers of the Altoona City Council of Parent-Teacher Associations at their annual Founders Day banquet (from left): Seated—Mrs. Charles Schucht, district council president; Mrs. Theodore Burchfield, third vice-president; and Mrs. Fred Bell, secretary. Standing—George K. Cox, president; T. M. Harper, Jr., second vice-president; Dr. William H. Alexander, speaker; Earl J. Miller, first vice-president and toastmaster; and Robert Barnhart, treasurer.
- **“DO ANY OTHER FOUNDERS DAY FUNCTIONS attract as many people?”** This query was part of an account of the Altoona City Council (Pennsylvania) Founders Day banquet, celebrating the fifty-ninth birthday of the National Congress. More than a thousand members of the twenty-seven local units in the council turned out to pay honor to the Founders and to hear an excellent address, “Give Yourself,” by Dr. William H. Alexander, pastor of the First Christian Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Can any other parent-teacher group boast a larger attendance at a Founders Day observance?
- **CONCERNED WITH THE COMMUNITY’S DEARTH** of social life and dating possibilities for young women teachers, the Northport High School P.T.A., Long Island, New York, organized a recreational club. Young engineers stationed at a nearby aircraft plant were among the first special guests invited in for evenings of dancing and social fun.
- **SANTA CLAUS, INC.**, an annual project in San Bernardino, California, fills a warehouse with gifts for the needy and distributes them from a “free department store.” P.T.A. groups, school nurses, and other interested citizens cooperate with the San Bernardino Teachers Club and help locate families to receive the Yuletide help.

- **OUTSTANDING MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS** are being honored on a television program titled “Teacher of the Week,” aired over station WBZ-TV in Boston. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Massachusetts Teacher Association, and the Massachusetts Council for Public Schools, the series aims at recruitment of teachers. School superintendents and P.T.A.’s are invited to assist by submitting the names and accomplishments of outstanding teachers in their communities.
- **UNIT BYLAWS** will be more familiar to members of the Crabbe (Kentucky) P.T.A. by the end of this year. At least one section of the bylaws appears on the mimeographed program of each month’s meeting.
- **TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE P.T.A.** on the junior high level, the Taft P.T.A. (Lawton, Oklahoma) plans to award annual state life memberships in the Oklahoma Congress. The mother to receive each year’s membership must be (1) a mother who has made an outstanding parent-teacher contribution, and (2) a mother of a child who will enter junior high school the following year.
- **A CHILDREN’S LIBRARY** is sponsored by the Stone School P.T.A. (Greenville, South Carolina). Housed in the school, the attractive library is open two days a week, with P.T.A. members serving as librarians. The unit built and painted the equipment and has stocked the shelves with more than nine hundred books. Parents and interested friends are asked to donate more books suggested on the state library committee’s approved list.
- **THE LOAD OF CLERICAL WORK** carried by teachers in the Garfield School P.T.A. (Cleveland, Ohio) has been lightened by the P.T.A. About forty young mothers help with the attendance sheets and health cards, assist in the dispensary, type library file book cards, keep office records, and take registrations for kindergarten. Since the work is intermittent, the volunteers are on call rather than on a definite schedule.
- **EVIDENCE THAT THE P.T.A.** “goes to college” was confirmed in a letter to the National Office by a student at Cornell University. She reported that she had found *Jubilee History* (fiftieth anniversary publication, now out of print) and *Where Children Come First* (recently reprinted in a paperbound edition) most helpful in understanding the background and goals of the P.T.A. for her course and special paper on the history and philosophy of education.

- **MEMBERSHIP SOARS** from 755 to 1,385! That's a record for a year any way you look at it. But for the Cranston High School P.T.A., Providence, Rhode Island, it's *two* records, because the unit also is first in the state ever to reach a 1,000 membership mark. Tripled attendance at monthly meetings and all-out board meetings are still further indications of members' mounting interest. Mrs. Clifford A. Shaw, president, modestly lays credit for the accomplishments squarely on efforts of A. William Olsen, membership chairman, and Knute Larson, school principal.
- **THE JUVENILE BICYCLE COURT** sponsored by the Keene (New Hampshire) Council has received the enthusiastic support of school officials, parents, and the police. A city ordinance was passed making it legal to give law-breaking cyclers a ticket and a summons to appear in court. The court, consisting of a council (five junior high school students) and a judge (an adult), is not associated with the municipal juvenile court in any way. Its primary purpose is to educate and discipline young bicycle riders and make them more safety-conscious.
- **PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN** who attended a meeting sponsored by the Parma Council (Cleveland, Ohio) may have wished they were triplets, in order to participate in the three simultaneous sessions. One group heard Charles Smith, testing counselor of the Parma school district, speak on "Is Your Child Different?" Elizabeth Whipple of the Nutrition Association of Greater Cleveland discussed "Food for Small Fry" with a second group, and Mrs. C. W. Stalnaker, Parma teacher, talked about "Handcraft for the Preschooler." However, each group learned what went on in other sessions when summaries were presented at the close of the meeting.
- **"WHO SHALL GO TO COLLEGE?"** was the subject of a panel discussion presented at a meeting of P.T.A.'s in Glencoe, Illinois. Speakers were Howard E. Wilson, secretary, Educational Policies Commission, National Education Association; Frederick Quinlan, superintendent of the Lake Forest, Illinois, schools; and Oscar M. Chute, Evanston, Illinois, School District 65 superintendent. A lively open forum following the panel discussion proved that the subject under consideration was definitely timed to modern trends.
- **EVERY CHILD IN STEVENS REPRESENTED IN THE P.T.A.** is the membership slogan of the Lulu M. Stevens Elementary School P.T.A. in Houston, Texas. How the unit stirs up interest and enthusiasm and has more than accomplished its aim was well illustrated at a regular meeting early this year, when fathers took over completely, even to hospitality arrangements.
- **A SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM**, sponsored by the Monroe Elementary P.T.A. and the Riverside City Recreation Department in California's District 23, was a fine example of school-home-community cooperation. More than 200 youngsters entered into "learn to swim" classes at a city pool. The new school served as headquarters for activities, school busses carried children back and forth, and mothers assisted the recreation workers. Potluck suppers and square dancing brought together families of the 300 registered children.
- **A SAFETY COURSE FOR BABY SITTERS**, sponsored by Cullman High School P.T.A. (Cullman, Alabama), has proved so popular that two classes a week are held and another course will follow. Supervised by Dr. Sylvia Morris, a local pediatrician, and assisted by mothers and teachers, thirteen- to seventeen-year-old students meet in the home economics department for practical work with home equipment, dolls, and sometimes children of varying ages. After the completion of five one-hour sessions and a terminal questionnaire the young sitters receive a qualifying identification card.
- **MORE THAN A HUNDRED ARTICLES** that relate to the general topic of international relations have appeared in the *National Congress Bulletin*. This is the count of an editor who is reviewing the history of international relations work in the National Congress.
- **LETTERS TO THEIR STATE LEGISLATORS** urging them to support a 20 per cent salary increase for teachers were written by members of the North Aiken (Aiken, South Carolina) Elementary P.T.A. at one of their regular meetings. The unit supplied paper, envelopes, and stamps for the mass letter-writing session, James D. Lyman, president, reports.



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● On the occasion of the "National Parent-Teacher's" fiftieth birthday, Benjamin C. Willis, superintendent of Chicago schools, stopped at the National Office to congratulate Mrs. Eva Grant, editor-in-chief. The issue they scan here is, of course, the memorable blue-and-gold covered anniversary edition.

- **TO RAISE MONEY FOR ITS STUDENT LOAN FUND**, the Louisville (Kentucky) Council sells pencils in the public schools. The Charles D. Jacob P.T.A., recently granted a merit award for its spirited participation in the project, increased pencil sales by more than 200 per cent over the previous year. Loans totaling \$2,500 were made to last year's graduating seniors.

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH . . .

● They promote the P.T.A. Magazine — NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

NPT attends a tea!

● At a March-of-Dimes tea for present and past members of the Nebraska state board, a poster, prepared by Mrs. Herman Siefkes, state Magazine chairman, displayed ARTICLES ON POLIO clipped from the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER over the past several years.

A welcome addition to the waiting room.

● Physicians, dentists, and beauticians in the area served by the D.C. Wentworth School in Chicago recently received a letter from Mrs. James M. Satterfield, Magazine chairman of the P.T.A. "Will you help us help parents become interested in the parent-teacher association?" the letter began, and then went on to describe briefly the kind of articles in the Magazine and how doctors and beauticians could do parents a service by DISPLAYING THE MAGAZINE in their waiting rooms. To make subscribing as painless as possible, a subscription blank and a return stamped envelope were enclosed.

An export with far-reaching import.

● "There is no finer medium than our Magazine to correct some of the erroneous impressions that peoples in other countries have received of us through our movies and our comic books," claims Mrs. Lee V. Vernon, Illinois Magazine chairman.

In her plea for more OVERSEAS GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS "to help SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE of our real America abroad," Mrs. Vernon reported that Illinois P.T.A.'s have subscriptions going to Liberia, Gold Coast (now Ghana), Union of South Africa, Australia, Israel, Japan, India, and many other countries.

Starting early.

● At the national conference for state Magazine chairmen, Mrs. Sue-Mar Dawson of Hawaii made a sound recommendation: "We might try harder to sell and promote our Magazine among PARENTS who have children in KINDERGARTEN. We have a most fertile field in the new, young, alert parents who are completely enthusiastic about the idea of being good parents."

Along the air waves.

● NPT has taken to the air in Wisconsin. A series of WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAMS based on the articles in the 1956-57 study program, "Horizons of Mental Health," was inaugurated over the state network last fall.

New heights for Hawaii.

● Hawaii celebrated NPT's FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY in a most appropriate and practical way—by increasing its subscription count 661 over the previous year. By January, 1,830 Hawaii parents were subscribing to the Magazine, but Magazine chairmen had hopes of hitting the 3,000 mark by the end of the year.

Ambassador without portfolio.

● Mrs. E. D. Mark, Nebraska chairman of international relations, isn't suggesting that NPT join the diplomatic corps. But she does think that "the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER is an ambassador we may be proud to send to the homes of exchange students, teachers, and foreign visitors. IT IS AN AMBASSADOR . . . interesting, intelligent, tolerant, and dignified . . . with a warm regard for children everywhere."

Dividends from doorbell ringing.

● Don't underestimate the value of the personal visit in promoting NPT, advises Mrs. E. J. Jaquay, Magazine chairman of the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Council in Ohio. She reports that Bolton and Victory Park, the two units leading in the council's subscription campaign, "have a DOOR-TO-DOOR PLAN to sell the Magazine to their entire membership—I should say 'families,' for they call on those who are not members as well. I was a Magazine chairman at Bolton School, and I know it works."

Convention companions.

● Those who attended the annual convention of the Vermont Congress last October weren't likely to forget that this was the Magazine's Golden Jubilee. When they registered they were handed a folder whose cover proclaimed in bright gold letters: "NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER GOLDEN JUBILEE, 1906-1956. Parents Who Read It Find That They Need It—Order Your Jubilee Subscription Today." The folder was utilitarian as well as attractive; inside it had pockets to hold the convention program and all the other materials a busy conventioneer is likely to collect.

A lift for the program planner.

● Are your P.T.A. leaders aware of the wealth of stimulating program material right at their finger tips—in the pages of the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER? A leadership training conference in Massachusetts gave participants training and practice in planning PROGRAMS BASED ON NPT ARTICLES. And in the process the "work-shoppers" were delighted to discover that each issue of the Magazine contained not one but several articles they could adapt to their local needs. Mrs. Elliott Anderson, state program chairman, was in charge of the workshop.

She's on her toes!

● Mrs. Anna Mae Sherwin, Magazine chairman of the Karel Havlicek P.T.A. in Berwyn, Illinois, gave away her only copy of the NPT anniversary issue! It happened this way: One of President Eisenhower's brothers refused reimbursement of any kind for his appearance as guest speaker at a P.T.A. meeting. The quick-thinking Magazine chairman saw a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY and jumped at it—fast. She wrote up a year's subscription to the Magazine, tucked it into her anniversary issue, and the gift was duly presented to Mr. Eisenhower as a thank-you for his courtesy.

Hospitality plus!

● When twenty-two teachers from abroad visited Toledo (Ohio) recently, P.T.A. members opened their homes to them. The Toledo Council topped off the hospitality by giving each of the visitors A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE MAGAZINE. Mrs. Charles Davis, Jr., is the council's Magazine chairman.

Oklahoma's March for Magazines.

● Earmarking March as its month for special boosting of NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER subscriptions, the Oklahoma Congress sent out a MARCH FOR MAGAZINES Packet of suggestions to local unit and council presidents and Magazine chairmen. In her announcement letter, included in the packet, Mrs. Evan L. Davis, state Magazine chairman, gives her co-workers some hints on how to translate the parent-teacher Objects into NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER promotion:

● To PROMOTE the welfare of children by setting as a minimum goal subscriptions from 10 per cent of our membership.

● To RAISE the standard of home life by reading and using the information in our Magazine.

● To SECURE adequate protection for our children by comparing the reports of achievements from other communities with ours, as given in our Magazine.

● To BRING our members into closer relationship by having this common bond of knowledge.

● To DEVELOP, by applying the knowledge gained from our Magazine, united effort between educators and parents that will secure every child a happier home, better informed parents and teachers, and better educational facilities.